IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: :   Before the Examiner:
   F. Bauchot et al.   :
Serial No: :   Group Art Unit:
Filed: :   Intellectual Property
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM   :   Law Department
IN AN ELECTRONIC SPREADSHEET :   International Business
FOR HANDLING USER-DEFINED   :   Machines Corporation
OPTIONS IN A COPY/CUT - PASTE :   11400 Burnet Road
OPERATION   :   Internal Zip 4054
                             :   Austin, Texas   78758
Date: April 19, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C.   20231.
Sir:

    Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A method of handling user-defined options during a copy and paste or a cut and paste operation within a multi dimensional spreadsheet (200) comprising a plurality of cells identified by a cell address along each dimension, said method comprising the steps of:

• defining one or a plurality of combinations, each combination comprising one or a plurality of options;
• defining a source cell range and a destination cell range;

- defining an operation to execute, either copy and paste, or cut and paste;

for each defined option combination comprising one or a plurality of options, if at least one cell in the source cell range comprises a reference to said one or plurality of options,

- computing the content of each cell within the source cell range according to said one or plurality of options;
- creating a version instance of the destination cell range;
- copying the source range of cells into said version instance.

when the last option combination is copied,
- clearing the source cell range if the operation is cut and paste.

2. The method according to claim 1 comprising the further steps of:

- assigning a name for each defined combination of options;
- naming the version instance with the defined combination name;

3. The method according to claim 1 comprising the preliminary steps of:

- defining each option as a boolean variable;

- referencing said one or plurality of boolean variables in one or a plurality of cells.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein said step of computing the content of each cell within the source cell range according to one or plurality of options, comprises the further steps of:

- activating the one or plurality of boolean variables corresponding to the current option combination;
- determining the content of each said cell with the source cell range depending on whether said one or plurality of boolean variables are activated or not.

5. The method according to claim 1 comprising the further step of:

- setting the value of the boolean variable to one when the boolean variable is activated, or
- setting the value of the boolean variable to zero when the boolean variable is not activated.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said steps of defining a combination, assigning a name, defining a source cell range and a destination cell range, defining an operation are executed by means of an interactive user interface.

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein said interactive user interface comprises a dialog box displayed on a screen (106) of a computer system (100).

8. A system (100) comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 1.

9. A computer program comprising computer readable instructions adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 1.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this French patent application. Applicants have amended Claims 2-9 to eliminate the multiply dependent claims. Applicants have not added any additional claims to the application. The Examiner is asked to consider Claims 1-9 in view of the above amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Mims, Jr.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,708
(512) 823-0950

DAM:dam
FAX: 512-823-1036

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

2. (Amended) The method according to [the preceding] claim 1 comprising the further steps of:

* assigning a name for each defined combination of options;
* naming the version instance with the defined combination name;

3. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 comprising the preliminary steps of:

* defining each option as a boolean variable;
* referencing said one or plurality of boolean variables in one or a plurality of cells.

4. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said step of computing the content of each cell within the source cell range according to one or plurality of options, comprises the further steps of:

* activating the one or plurality of boolean variables corresponding to the current option combination;
* determining the content of each said cell with the source cell range depending on whether said one or plurality of boolean variables are activated or not.

5. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 comprising the further step of:

* setting the value of the boolean variable to one when the boolean variable is activated, or
* setting the value of the boolean variable to zero when the boolean variable is not activated.

6. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said steps of defining a combination, assigning a name, defining a source cell range and a destination cell range, defining an operation are executed by means of an interactive user interface.

7. (Amended) The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein said interactive user interface comprises a dialog box displayed on a screen (106) of a computer system (100).

8. (Amended) A system (100) comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1.

9. (Amended) A computer program comprising computer readable instructions adapted for carrying out the method according to [claims] claim 1 [to 7].